



PRESS ADVISORY

TO: All Assignment Editors
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NAZI DEATH CAMP LIBERATOR

ADDRESSES NEWARK'S HOLOCAUST PROGRAM

Leon Bass, a retired inner city school principal and member of an all black Army battalion that liberated a Nazi death camp, will be the keynote speaker at the City of Newark's 10th Annual Holocaust Commemoration, Thursday, May 15, 12 noon at Bethany Baptist Church, 275 W. Market Street.

A dynamic public speaker who relates the shock of his death camp observations to the experiences of being a teacher and school administrator in inner-city Philadelphia, Bass will be joined by Martha Rich of Millburn, a survivor of Auschwitz, who also will address the audience.

Bass, was a member of the U.S. Army's all African-American, 183rd Engineering Combat Battalion, which liberated the Buchenwald death camp. He holds a doctorate in education from Temple University and is a retired school principal, who spent 33 years in the Philadelphia public school system. He is chairman of the Philadelphia Interfaith Council on the Holocaust and a life member of the N.A.A.C.P. He has lectured extensively on his experiences throughout the United States and received awards and recognition for his professional and civic accomplishments.

Rich was taken from her native Hungary when she was 15 and survived three years at Auschwitz until the camp was liberated.

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The Rev. James Scott, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, will open the program with an invocation. Other clergy participating in the program include Imam Ali Muslim of Masjid Muhammad and Rabbi Arthur Vernon of Temple Ahavas Shalom, both in Newark. Musical selections will feature the St. Vincents Academy Choir and Josh Nelson, dubbed Newark's Prince of Gospel. Newark Mayor Sharpe James and City Council President Donald Bradley also will offer remarks.

The program is open to the public and will include a luncheon reception in the church hall immediately following the service. There is secured parking in the lot adjacent to Bethany Baptist Church.

The ecumenical program which commemorates the six million Jews and millions of others--Gypsies, Poles, political dissidents, the handicapped, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals and others--who were systematically murdered during this terrible time, is the only municipally-sponsored Holocaust program in New Jersey.